

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1657

By: Eddins, Boyd (Laura),
Hager and Deutschendorf
of the House

and

Williams and Cain of the
Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 1-114, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 220, O.S.L. 1994 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 1-114), which relates to school attendance; allowing for half-day and full-day early childhood education programs; deleting certain eligibility criteria; deleting certain provisions for priority admission; deleting tuition requirement; providing for State Aid; deleting provisions for certain underage children in kindergarten and first grade relating to admittance, class size, tuition, transfer, residence and screening; deleting certain developmental assessments of certain children; specifying age for admission into kindergarten; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.7, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 205, O.S.L. 1994 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 11-103.7), which relates to early childhood education programs; modifying certain requirements; directing the State Board of Education to promulgate early childhood education standards; modifying relationship requirement to certain Head Start programs; requiring school districts to give certain advance notice; deleting obsolete language; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 18-107, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 215, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 18-107), which relates to definitions for State Aid; including early childhood education programs in average daily attendance; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 18-111, which relates to school attendance; changing methodology in determining State Aid to average daily membership; lowering age of legal attendance to four years of age; modifying specification of underage pupil; amending Section 6, Chapter 215, O.S.L. 1996, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 18-201.1), which relates to State Aid formula weights; deleting certain conditions for certain pupil grade level weights; deleting certain pupil grade level weights; adding certain pupil grade level weight for full-day early childhood education program; deleting prohibition for State Aid for certain students; repealing 70 O.S. 1991, Sections 1210.101, 1210.102, 1210.103, 1210.103A and 1210.104, which relate to kindergarten;

providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 1-114, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 220, O.S.L. 1994 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 1-114), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-114. A. All children between the ages of five (5) years on or before September 1, and twenty-one (21) years on or before September 1, shall be entitled to attend school free of charge in the district in which they reside.

B. All children who are at least four (4) years of age but not more than five (5) years of age on or before September 1 and who have not attended a public school kindergarten shall be entitled to attend half-day or full-day early childhood programs at any public school in the state where such programs are offered; provided no child shall be required to attend any early childhood education program. The following paragraphs shall govern ~~admission to and eligibility for~~ early childhood programs:

1. Children who are at least four (4) years of age but not more than five (5) years of age on or before September 1 ~~who meet the qualifications for federally sponsored Head Start programs~~ shall be entitled to attend either half-day or full-day early childhood programs in their district of residence free of charge and ~~shall be given priority for acceptance into the early childhood programs over children who do not meet the qualifications for the federally sponsored Head Start programs. Children who are at least four (4) years of age but not more than five (5) years of age on or before September 1 who do not meet the qualifications for a federally sponsored Head Start program shall be accepted into an early childhood program in their district of residence as long as the district has the physical facilities and teaching personnel to accommodate the child. Admission of children who are not Head Start-eligible shall be based on the date of receipt of application and upon payment of a sliding scale tuition which shall be set by the district board of education. For purposes of calculation of State Aid, children in an early childhood education program who meet the qualifications for federally sponsored Head Start programs shall be included in the average daily membership of the district providing the program. For those early childhood program students who qualify to be included in the average daily membership of the school district for State Aid funding, the weight shall be limited to the early childhood grade weight, as provided in Section 18-201 of this title, for purposes of reimbursement for early childhood programs.~~

2. A child who has not reached the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and who resides in a district which does not offer an early childhood program shall be eligible for transfer to a district where an early childhood program is offered if the district that offers the early childhood program agrees to the transfer. A district offering early childhood programs may refuse to accept a nonresident child if the district does not have the physical facilities or teaching personnel to accommodate the child in an early childhood education class. If the child requesting the transfer has not reached the age of four (4) years on or before September 1, the district may refuse to accept the nonresident child if the district determines the child is not ready for an early

childhood program. Children who are accepted in a program outside their district of residence as provided in this paragraph ~~and who are Head Start eligible shall be entitled to attend the early childhood program free of charge and shall be included in the average daily membership of the district providing the program for State Aid funding subject to the State Aid formula weight limitations as set forth in paragraph 1 of this subsection. Children eligible for transfer as provided in this paragraph who are not Head Start eligible shall pay tuition on a sliding scale set by the district offering the program.~~

~~C. Underage children, defined as children who have reached the age of four (4) years but have not reached the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 of the school year, may be admitted to kindergarten subject to the provisions of the following paragraphs:~~

~~1. Underage children may be admitted to kindergarten classes in the district of the child's residence if class size of the district permits. An underage child who is a resident of the district shall not be required to pay tuition. Underage resident children who are admitted to kindergarten classes shall be included in the average daily membership of the district for State Aid funding, as provided in Section 18-201 of this title.~~

~~2. Underage children may be admitted to kindergarten classes in a district other than the district of the child's residence if the class size of the district permits and the district of residence and the nonresident district agree to the transfer. If a transfer is agreed upon, the underage child shall be included in the average daily membership of the receiving district for State Aid funding, as provided in Section 18-201 of this title. If the districts do not agree to a transfer, the child shall not be allowed to attend kindergarten classes in the nonresident district unless a tuition fee is paid as set forth in subsection E of this section.~~

~~3. Prior to admittance in kindergarten classes a school district may through appropriate screening determine if the underage child is ready for enrollment in kindergarten classes.~~

~~D. Except as otherwise provided by law, No child shall be enrolled in kindergarten unless he or she will have reached the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 of the school year. No child shall be enrolled in the first grade unless he or she will have reached the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the school year. Children who have not reached the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the school year, who were admitted to a kindergarten class as underage children, who have satisfactorily completed kindergarten and who have been recommended for promotion to first grade shall be permitted to enroll in first grade. Underage children who are enrolled in first grade shall be included in the average daily membership of the school district for State Aid funding, as provided in Section 18-201 of this title.~~

~~E. D. No nonresident and nontransferred pupil shall be allowed to attend school in any school district unless a tuition fee equal to the per capita cost of education for a similar period in such district during the preceding year has been paid to the receiving district in advance yearly or by semester as determined by the district board of education of the receiving district. If the State Board of Education discovers that such attendance has been allowed without prior payment of the tuition fee in advance as required, no further payment of any State Aid Funds shall be made to the district until such district has shown to the satisfaction of the State Board of Education that all such tuition fees have been paid or that such tuition pupil will no longer be allowed to attend school until the required tuition fee has been paid.~~

~~F.~~ E. Any parent, guardian, person or institution having care and custody of a child who pays ad valorem tax on real property in any other school district other than that in which ~~he~~ that person resides may, with the approval of the receiving board, enroll the child in any school district in which ad valorem tax is paid and receive a credit on the nonresident tuition fee equal to the amount of the ad valorem tax paid for school district purposes in the school district in which the child is enrolled. Provided, the credit shall not exceed the total amount required for the tuition payment.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.7, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 205, O.S.L. 1994 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 11-103.7), is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.7 A. ~~The State Department of Education shall develop standards for early childhood education programs for children who are at least four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the ensuing school year. Each school district may offer to four-year-old children the opportunity to participate in an early childhood education program.~~

B. The State Board of Education shall promulgate standards for early childhood education programs for children who are at least four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the ensuing school year. The standards shall include both half-day programs consisting of not less than two and one-half (2 1/2) hours per school day, and full-day programs of six (6) hours. The standards for all early childhood programs shall require a certified teacher, as specified in this section, to be present in the classroom for the length of the school day. Such program shall:

1. Be directed toward developmentally appropriate objectives for such children, rather than toward academic objectives suitable for older children;

2. ~~Be offered in addition to, rather than supplant, federally sponsored Head Start classes; and~~

3. ~~Accommodate the needs of all children and families regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and~~

C. ~~The program shall require~~ 3. Require that any teacher employed by a public school to teach in such early childhood education program shall be certified in early childhood education.

C. The superintendent of any school district providing classroom space or other school facilities for a federally sponsored Head Start program that is planning to make a material change in the arrangement, shall give notice to the director of the Head Start program at least seven (7) days prior to a school board hearing on the matter.

D. A school district may offer such early childhood education program within the district, in cooperation with other districts, through the use of transfers as specified by law, or by contracting with a private or public provider of early childhood education programs. If the program is provided through contract with a private or public provider other than a school district, the contract may only be continued if each teacher serving the school on and after January 1, 1993, is certified in Early Childhood Education, except that all teachers, without such certification, hired by such provider prior to January 1, 1993, and serving in the school as an early childhood education teacher shall be required to obtain certification on or before the beginning of the 1996-97 school year. Any person who has been employed as an early childhood educator with the Head Start Program, has a child development associate degree (CDA) and has at least five (5) years of experience in such employment shall be certified in early childhood education

for purposes of employment in the public schools of this state to teach in early childhood education for children four (4) years of age and younger; if such person is recertified in child development by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition within five (5) years prior to the expiration of the person's early childhood certificate that was issued by the State Board of Education, such person shall be granted a renewal certificate in early childhood education by the State Board of Education upon expiration of the early childhood certificate. Provided, private or public providers shall meet such other standards required by law and by the State Board of Education.

—E. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules ~~and regulations~~ to provide for the implementation of such program.

F. ~~On and after the effective date of this section, the~~ The term "pre-kindergarten" shall mean early childhood education for purposes of this title.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 18-107, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 215, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 18-107), is amended to read as follows:

Section 18-107. As used in this title:

1. "Average Daily Attendance" (ADA) means the legal average number of pupils, ~~kindergarten~~ early childhood education programs through grade twelve, in a school district during a school year as determined pursuant to the provisions of Section 18-111 of this title. A day of school for early childhood education programs and kindergarten shall be at least two and one-half (2 1/2) hours and, for early childhood education, may be six (6) hours.

2. "Average Daily Membership" (ADM) means the average number of pupils present and absent in a school district during a school year. Average Daily Membership shall be calculated by dividing the sum of the pupil's total days present and total days absent by the number of days taught. Provided, a pupil who has been absent without excuse ten (10) consecutive days shall be taken off the roll beginning the eleventh day and thereafter shall not be considered in a district's average daily membership calculation until the pupil is placed on the roll in the district. For the purpose of this paragraph, consecutive days means days for which enrollment is recorded.

3. "Total Adjusted Assessed Valuation" means the sum of public service property assessed valuation, personal property assessed valuation and real property assessed valuation as adjusted pursuant to the provisions of Section 18-109.1 of this title.

4. "Eighty-five percent (85%) of maximum allowable", for the purpose of assessing class size penalty pursuant to Sections 18-113.1 and 18-113.2 of this title, means eighty-five percent (85%) of ten percent (10%) of the preceding year's net assessed valuation of a school district. The calculation of indebtedness as provided for in paragraph a of subsection G of Section 18-113.1 and subparagraph a of paragraph 4 of subsection A of Section 18-113.2 of this title shall include the outstanding principal amount of bonds issued by the school district plus the principal amount of any bonds authorized by a vote of the people for issuance but not yet issued by the school district.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 18-111, is amended to read as follows:

Section 18-111. No pupil shall be counted in the average daily attendance membership of any district for the purpose set out in this article unless said pupil is a legal resident of said district as provided for in Section 1-113 of this title or has been transferred to said district. A pupil moving from a school district

during a school term shall be entitled to attend such school for the remainder of that school term. School districts shall not include out-of-state pupils in their average daily ~~attendance~~ membership for the purpose set out in this article. The following pupils shall not be counted: Those who have attained twenty-one (21) years of age by September 1 of that school year, or who have completed the twelfth grade, except as elsewhere provided for by law for veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam Conflict, and those who have not attained ~~five (5)~~ four (4) years of age by September 1 of that school year. In determining the ages of pupils for State Aid purposes, birth certificates shall be presented, if obtainable, as proof of age. Underage pupils in kindergarten and first grade who have been in legal school attendance in a public or private school in another state or in a Department of Defense School for military dependents may be legally enrolled and attend an Oklahoma school.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY Section 6, Chapter 215, O.S.L. 1996, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 18-201.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 18-201.1 A. Beginning with the 1997-98 school year, and each school year thereafter, the weighted membership of a school district for calculation of Foundation Aid purposes pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection D of Section 18-200.1 of this title shall be the sum of the weighted pupil grade level calculation, the weighted pupil category calculation, the weighted district calculation and the weighted teacher experience and degree calculation. The weighted membership of a school district for calculation of Salary Incentive Aid purposes pursuant to paragraph 3 of subsection D of Section 18-200.1 of this title shall be the sum of the weighted pupil grade level calculation, the weighted pupil category calculation, the weighted district calculation, and the weighted teacher experience and degree calculation.

B. The weighted calculations provided for in subsection A of this section shall be based on the highest weighted average daily membership of the first nine (9) weeks of the current school year, the preceding school year or the second preceding school year of a school district, unless otherwise specified. The highest of the three (3) weighted average daily memberships shall be used consistently in all of the calculations. The average daily membership data used for all calculations in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this subsection shall be the same as used in the calculation of the State Aid Formula. The weighted calculations provided for in subsection A of this section shall be determined as follows:

1. The weighted pupil grade level calculation shall be determined by taking the highest average daily membership and assigning weights to the pupils according to grade attended as follows:

	GRADE LEVEL	WEIGHT
a.	Early Half-day early childhood programs, contingent upon the enactment of Enrolled House Bill No. 1657 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature	.7
b.	Underage students enrolled in kindergarten for the 1997-98 school year, contingent upon the enactment of Enrolled House Bill No. 1657 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature	1.3
c.	Underage students enrolled in kindergarten beginning with the	

~~1998-99 school year,
contingent upon the enactment of
Enrolled House Bill No. 1657 of the
1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma
Legislature~~ .7

		<u>Full-day early childhood programs</u>	<u>1.3</u>
d.	<u>c.</u>	Kindergarten	1.3
e.	<u>d.</u>	First and second grade	1.351
f.	<u>e.</u>	Third grade	1.051
g.	<u>f.</u>	Fourth through sixth grade	1.0
h.	<u>g.</u>	Seventh through twelfth grade	1.2
i.	<u>h.</u>	Out-of-home placement	1.45

Multiply the membership of each subparagraph of this paragraph by the weight assigned to such subparagraph of this paragraph and add the totals together to determine the weighted pupil grade level calculation for a school district. Determination of the pupils eligible for the early childhood program weight shall be pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-114 of this title. ~~No child for whom tuition is paid pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-114 of this title may be included in the membership count of the school district providing the early childhood program.~~ The pupils eligible for the out-of-home placement pupil weight shall be students who are not residents of the school district in which they are receiving education pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of Section 1-113 of this title. Such weight may be claimed by the district providing educational services to such student for the days that student is enrolled in that district. If claimed, the out-of-home placement weight shall be in lieu of the pupil grade level and any pupil category weights for that student. Provided, if a student resides in a juvenile detention center that is restricted to less than twelve (12) beds, the out-of-home placement pupil weight for such students shall be calculated as follows: for a center with six (6) beds - 2.9; for a center with eight (8) beds - 2.2; and for a center with ten (10) beds - 1.74.

2. The weighted pupil category calculation shall be determined by assigning a weight to the pupil category as follows:

	CATEGORY	WEIGHT
a.	Vision Impaired	3.8
b.	Learning Disabilities	.4
c.	Hearing Impaired	2.9
d.	Deaf and Blind	3.8
e.	Educable Mentally Handicapped	1.3
f.	Emotionally Disturbed	2.5
g.	Gifted	.34
h.	Multiple Handicapped	2.4
i.	Physically Handicapped	1.2
j.	Speech Impaired	.05
k.	Trainable Mentally Handicapped	1.3
l.	Bilingual	.25
m.	Special Education Summer Program	1.2
n.	Economically Disadvantaged	.25
o.	Optional Extended School Year Program	As determined by the State Board of Education

Except as otherwise provided, multiply the number of pupils approved in the school year with the highest average daily membership in each category by the weight assigned to such category and add the totals together to determine the weighted pupil category calculation for a school district. For the 1996-97 school year, the number to be

multiplied by the weight assigned to the gifted category in subparagraph g of this paragraph shall be the lesser of (1) the sum of the number of students who scored in the top three percent (3%) on any national standardized test of intellectual ability plus the number of students identified as gifted pursuant to subparagraphs a through d of paragraph 1 of Section 1210.301 of this title or (2) the sum of the number of students who scored in the top three percent (3%) on any national standardized test of intellectual ability plus eight percent (8%) of the total average daily membership of the school district for the preceding school year. For the 1997-98 school year and subsequent school years, the number to be multiplied by the weight assigned to the gifted category in subparagraph g of this paragraph shall be the lesser of (1) the sum of the number of students who scored in the top three percent (3%) on any national standardized test of intellectual ability plus the number of students identified as gifted pursuant to subparagraphs a through d of paragraph 1 of Section 1210.301 of this title, or (2) the sum of the number of students who scored in the top three percent (3%) on any national standardized test of intellectual ability plus eight percent (8%) of the total average daily membership of the school district for the first nine (9) weeks of the school year.

3. The weighted district calculation shall be determined by determining the calculations for each school district for both the small school district formula and the district sparsity - isolation formula, applying whichever is the greater of the calculations of the two formulas and then applying the restrictions pursuant to subparagraph c of this paragraph.

a. Small school district formula: 529 minus the average daily membership divided by 529 times .2 times total average daily membership.

The small school district formula calculation shall apply only to school districts whose highest average daily membership is less than 529 pupils. School districts which are consolidated or annexed after August 19, 1991, pursuant to the Oklahoma School Consolidation and Annexation Act shall have the weighted district size calculation for the two (2) school years following the fiscal year in which such consolidation occurred calculated to be the sum of the individual consolidated districts computed as if the consolidation had not taken place. Thereafter, any such district which is consolidated pursuant to the Oklahoma School Consolidation and Annexation Act shall not qualify for the weighted district calculation unless the district can satisfy the specifications herein. Subject to the provisions of subparagraph c of this paragraph, the resulting number shall be counted as additional students for the purpose of calculating State Aid.

b. District sparsity - isolation formula:

The district sparsity - isolation formula calculation shall apply only to school districts:

- (1) whose total area in square miles is greater than the average number of square miles for all school districts in this state; and
- (2) whose areal density is less than one-fourth (1/4) of the state average areal density. Areal density shall be determined by dividing the school district's average daily membership by the school district's total area in square miles.

The district sparsity - isolation formula calculation shall be calculated as follows:

The school district student cost factor multiplied by the school district area factor. The resulting product shall be multiplied by the school district's average daily membership. Subject to the provisions of subparagraph c of this paragraph, the resulting number shall be counted as additional students for the purpose of calculating State Aid.

The school district student cost factor shall be calculated as follows:

The school district's average daily membership shall be categorized into the following grade level groups and applied to the appropriate formulas as computed below:

Grade Level Group

Grades K-5 Divide 74 by the sum of the Grade Level ADM plus 23, add .85 to the quotient, then multiply the sum by the Grade Level ADM.

Grades 6-8 Divide 122 by the sum of the Grade Level ADM plus 133, add .85 to the quotient, then multiply the sum by the Grade Level ADM.

Grades 9-12 Divide 292 by the sum of the Grade Level ADM plus 128, add .78 to the quotient, then multiply the sum by the Grade Level ADM.

The sum of the grade level group's average daily membership shall be divided by the school district's average daily membership. The number one (1.0) shall be subtracted from the resulting quotient.

The school district area cost factor shall be calculated as follows:

Subtract the state average district area from the district area, then divide the remainder by the state average district area;

however, the district area cost factor shall not exceed one (1.0).

The State Board of Education shall define geographical barriers whose location in a school district would inhibit the district from consolidation or annexation. The Board shall make available an application process, review applications, and for districts the Board deems necessary allow additional square miles to be used for the purposes of calculations used for the weighted district sparsity - isolation formula. Provided, that the additional square miles allowed for geographical barriers shall not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the district's actual size.

c. State Aid funds which a district is calculated to receive as a result of the weighted district calculation shall be restricted as follows:

If, after the weighted district calculation is applied, the district's projected per pupil revenue exceeds one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the projected state average per pupil revenue, then the district's State Aid shall be reduced by an amount that will restrict the district's

projected per pupil revenue to one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the projected state average per pupil revenue. Provided, in applying the restriction provided in this division, the district's State Aid shall not be reduced by an amount greater than by the amount of State Aid which was generated by the weighted district calculation.

The July calculation of the projected per pupil revenue shall be determined by dividing the highest of the district's preceding two years average daily membership (ADM) as weighted by the pupil grade level, the pupil category, the district and the teacher experience degree index calculations for projected State Aid into the district's projected total revenues including projected funds for the State Aid Formula for the preceding year, net assessed valuation for the preceding calendar year times thirty-nine (39) mills, county revenues excluding the county four-mills revenues for the second preceding year, other state appropriations for the preceding year and the collections for the preceding year of state apportionment, motor vehicle revenue, gross production tax and R.E.A. tax.

The December calculation of the projected per pupil revenue shall be determined by dividing the highest of the district's first nine (9) weeks of the current school year or the two preceding school years average daily membership (ADM) as weighted by the pupil grade level, the pupil category, the district and the teacher experience degree index calculations for projected State Aid into the district's projected total revenues including funds for the December calculation of the current year State Aid Formula, net assessed valuation for the current calendar year times thirty-nine (39) mills, county revenues excluding the county four-mills revenue for the preceding year, other state appropriations for the preceding year and the collections for the preceding year of state apportionment, motor vehicle revenue, gross production tax and R.E.A. tax.

The district's projected total revenues for each calculation shall exclude the following collections for the preceding year: federal revenue, insurance loss payments, reimbursements, recovery of overpayments and refunds, unused reserves, prior expenditures recovered, prior year surpluses, and other local miscellaneous revenues.

4. The weighted teacher experience and degree calculation shall be determined in accordance with the teacher experience and degree index. The State Department of Education shall determine an index for each state teacher by using data supplied in the school district's teacher personnel reports of the preceding year and utilizing the index as follows:

EXPERIENCE	TEACHER EXPERIENCE - DEGREE INDEX		
	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	MASTER'S DEGREE	DOCTOR'S DEGREE
0 - 2	.7	.9	1.1
3 - 5	.8	1.0	1.2
6 - 8	.9	1.1	1.3

9 - 11	1.0	1.2	1.4
12 - 15	1.1	1.3	1.5
Over 15	1.2	1.4	1.6

The school district teacher index for each school district shall be determined by subtracting the weighted average state teacher from the weighted average district teacher. Multiply the school district teacher index if greater than zero by .7 and then multiply that product by the sum of the district's weighted pupil grade level calculation provided in paragraph 1 of this subsection and the weighted pupil category calculation provided in subparagraph n of paragraph 2 of this subsection to determine the weighted teacher experience and degree calculation.

SECTION 6. REPEALER 70 O.S. 1991, Sections 1210.101, 1210.102, 1210.103, 1210.103A and 1210.104, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of May, 1998.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 7th day of May, 1998.

President of the Senate